Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 06506 241358Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
----------039846 241400Z /45
O 241253Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4718

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 06506

NODIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.)
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP

REF: STATE 103700

1. CHARGE, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM, MADE SEPARATE APPROACHES PER REFTEL TO FR. REUTER AND CARDINAL SIN APRIL 24 RE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR MEETING WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT. IN BOTH CASES WE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF APPROACHES BEING KEPT CONFIDENTIAL; BOTH ASSURED US THEY WOULD DO SO. WE ALSO NOTED TO BOTH THAT MAY 3, SOMETIME BETWEEN 2:00 AND 3:15 PM, SEEMED MOST LIKELY TIME.

2. WE MET WITH FR. REUTER FIRST AND HE EXPRESSED IMMEDIATE INTEREST IN MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT. HE HAD NEITHER OBJECTIONS NOR ALTERNATIVES TO CONDITIONS DESCRIBED PARA 4 REFTEL. HE WILL BE AWAITING FURTHER WORD TO CONFIRM MEETING AND SET SPECIFIC TIME.

3. AT LATER MEETING, CARDINAL SIN ALSO EXPRESSED IMMEDIATE INTEREST IN MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT. HE MADE CLEAR HE WOULD NOT WISH TO BE PART OF LARGER MEETING. (IF MEETING AGREED UPON HE WOULD PLAN TO HAVE HIS SECRETARY GENERAL ACCOMPANY HIM.)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 06506 241358Z

4. HE ALSO EXPRESSED DISTINCT PREFERENCE FOR MEETING AT HIS RESIDENCE, EXPLAINING HE RUNS RISK OF INCURRING DISPLEASURE OF HIGHEST GOP AUTHORITIES IF HE SHOULD APPEAR TO BE SEEKING MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT. WE AGREED TO INFORM WASHINGTON OF PREFERENCE. WHEN WE COMMENTED MEETING AT HIS RESIDENCE COULD PRESENT PROBLEMS, CARDINAL

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

SIN STATED THAT, WHILE IT WOULD BE TO HIS ADVANTAGE IF A MEETING TOOK PLACE AT HIS RESIDENCE, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO COME TO HOTEL IF NECESSARY. SIN WAS QUITE EXPLICIT IN STATING HE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO BRIEF, ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT OR TO TAKING OF PHOTOS. IN SUM, BOTH REUTER AND SIN REACTED VERY POSITIVELY TO POSSIBILITY OF MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT AND THEY WILL BE AWAITING FURTHER WORD FROM WASHINGTON.

5. FOR LARGER HUMAN RIGHTS RELATED MEETING WITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND OPPOSITION FIGURES, WE PROPOSE CONSIDERATION OF FOLLOWING:

- A) SISTER IRENE DABALUS, OSB ASSOCIATION OF MAJOR RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS OF WOMEN IN THE PHILIPPINES OR FATHER JOACHIN BERNAS, S.J., A.M.R.S. OF MEN IN THE PHILIPPINES.

- B) BISHOP LABAYAN, CHAIRMAN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEDERATION OF ASIAN BISHOPS CONFERENCE OR BISHOP CLAVER OF BUKIDNON, LEADING SPOKESMAN OF BISHOPS OF MINDANAO, AND SOCIAL ACTIVIST AND ARTICULATE PROPONENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

- C) FORMER PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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- D) FORMER SENATOR SALONGA

- E) FORMER SENATOR ROXAS

- F) FORMER EDUCATION SECRETARY ALEJANDRO ROCES (LABAN CANDIDATE) AND FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY S. P. LOPEZ.

WE HAVE PROPOSED CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO INCLUDING ONE MODERATE LABAN CANDIDATE SINCE LABAN CURRENTLY MOST SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITIONIST ELEMENT IN PHILIPPINES. ALTERNATIVELY WE HAVE SUGGESTED S. P. LOPEZ GIVEN HIS IMPECABLE CREDENTIALS AS MODERATE INTELLECTUAL ADVOCATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. STULL

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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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